

to attend. While we are without a shepherd we will ask God's blessings and praise His holy name and make a deeper covenant with God and leave nothing undone that is in our power to keep our souls from perishing. While we can't reach the depth of humility, we hope to be on the advance.

G. A. RUFF, Cor. Sec.

Dedication

Morrill News.

The Progressive Brethren church of Hamlin, was dedicated Sunday, October 2. Rev. J. D. McFaden, assisted by Rev. J. W. Downing, conducted the services. The music, which was most excellent, was furnished by the Baptist and Christian church choirs. After an able sermon by Rev. McFaden, a statement of the financial condition of the church was read. It was found that \$800 was needed to clear the church of debt. This sum was asked for and in a surprisingly short time \$835 was raised. This leaves the church free of debt. This church is one of the most beautiful little churches it has ever been our pleasure to enter. It is a veritable parlor. The most exquisite taste has been shown in choosing colors and selecting furniture. There is nothing gaudy or showy but, on the contrary, everything is in quiet harmony, and on entering such a room the spirit of rest from the outside cares, and the impulse of worship involuntarily comes over one. A fine new organ has been placed in the church. A furnace with all the necessary fixtures has been purchased. A baptism, cistern, etc., has been added, in fact everything is complete. The members are all well to do people, who can afford to keep up this beautiful church home. Under such a favorable outlook we expect and hope to see this church grow in strength and usefulness.

Pacific Items

We are still enjoying sunshine tho there have been several slight interruptions from a meteorological point of view since my last communication. A month ago it seemed as if our long summer were to come to an end, for several showers came to slake the thirsty ground. Among these showers was one which was quite remarkable—a real old fashioned eastern thunder storm—a storm accompanied by the constant rattle and roar of electrical activity. Such a thing is of course not at all uncommon in the eastern states, but here it causes much remark, for it almost never thunders in the valleys of California. Many persons no doubt have been told that such displays never occur here, but they do, as has been shown in this instance. We were also told in the east that California had no fies. Well we have learned that the truth was not told, for this San Joaquin Valley has as many if not more than I ever saw anywhere in the eastern states. They are fully as hungry as their cousins across the mountains, and are much longer lived, for here they live all winter. Chilling days render them unable for active operations, but the warm days find them ready to

make up for lost time. Another difference between them and their relatives in the east is that ours are much less troublesome to stock than yours. Here no one puts flynets on horses, because there is no need to do so. We were also told that fresh meat could be kept hanging out of doors without salt for almost any length of time at any season of year. It can be done, but the meat will spoil as quickly as any place in the world and California's climate has been misrepresented, at least in this matter.

Some reference has already been made to our recent camp meeting, for Brother Beer has given you some information concerning it. In your community there would perhaps be little excuse for holding such services, but here, where our people are so much scattered, and where so many of them are deprived of the privilege of attending religious services among the people of their choice, these meetings are almost a necessity. The brethren come from far and near and there is an annual reunion of the California church. By the help of personal contact, and the days well filled with religious services, strength is imparted to all, and each one returns home better prepared for life's duties as they present themselves in the vineyard of the Lord. The meeting was held this year on the same grounds as last—in a beautiful oak grove on the San Joaquin river. The regular attendance was larger than ever before and was taken as an indication that interest in spiritual affairs is growing among our borders. Brother Albert P. Reed did good service and made for himself a host of friends. He is showing that he is a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. God sent him to us. We are sure of it because he is just such a man as God would send, and because the Lord's work was in need of such a helper. Brother Jacob Shank of the Chaparral church did not lag behind, but assisted in proclaiming the word which makes wise unto salvation and was made to rejoice because three of his children came out on the Lord's side and took their stand with their father. Brother George F. Ronk preached two sermons—his first efforts in the ministry to which he was ordained a year ago. He is a young man in his 18th year, but his efforts were not those of a novice. If he is spared, the church will hear of him many times, I am sure. During the meeting Brethren Shank and Reed were solemnly ordained to the eldership by the laying on of hands and prayer. The visible results of the meeting were the conversion of thirteen souls which were made willing to accept Christ as Savior, Helper, All, and invitations to bring the gospel into other fields from which there were representatives present. The field is widening more and more, and I predict that our numbers shall be much increased as the years go by. It is difficult to give an evasive answer to the frequent appeals for preaching, but I do not think it best to go anywhere unless the initial effort can be followed with permanent work if it should prove necessary. "No

step backward" is my motto, and I make it apply even to evangelistic work. It is not best to organize churches which at first are, of necessity, weak in more ways than one, and then leave them to the mercy of wolves. We are trying to make haste slowly, because we believe it will give permanent results.

After the camp meeting I spent eleven days in Marsh Canyon, in the heart of the Coast Range mountains. The meetings there were well attended and there was a deep interest manifested. Two young men expressed a determination to come to Lathrop for baptism. There is an excellent prospect for good work in the future at this place. Five devoted brethren and sisters is all we number now but these will not long stand so nearly alone. Brother Reed will preach for them regularly, making one trip per month and giving them three sermons during each month. He is also doing as much for the Vernalis brethren, among whom he is showing himself an efficient pastor.

From what has been said, you will be led to believe that the work here is making progress. It is, and we rejoice in the Lord for it. All departments of the church are in excellent condition and make us hope for large things. But we are not resting, now that the work is going on so encouragingly, for we know that "Eternal vigilance is the price of safety" and eternal activity is the price of success. The Lord is always doing His part and we must do ours. Our part in this work is to prepare the soil and sow the seed. When we have done this we may properly look unto the Father for harvest, but not until then.

Yours for the advancement of God's kingdom,

MARTIN SHIVELY.

Lathrop, Cal.

Items from the "Land of Goshen"

After a long delay, because of being kept very busy, we again take up our pen and report that God is blessing the work "in the land of Goshen."

The nature of our work demands our entire time as well as our presence, and because of this we could only attend the Warsaw conference one full day, which we enjoyed very much, meeting old acquaintances and enjoying the Christian association of God's people.

After returning from conference, brother J. B. Wampler, of Blanco, Pa., unexpectedly came among us, and we soon arranged for a series of illustrated sermons or lectures on types and antitypes.

We enjoyed these lectures very much, as they are drawn from charts prepared by himself and copy-righted. Brother Wampler, aided by these charts, leads his audience to the "mountain top" and there beautifully portrays to them the travels of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage, to deliverance and possession in the promised land, halting along the way frequently, as at Marah, —smiting the rock,—giving the quail and Manna,—raising the brazen serpent on the